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FROM: Helsinki

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 213, November 4, 4 p. m.

Control: 2605  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
Rec'd: November 4, 1961  
REVIEWED BY 10:00 pm DATE 7/13/84  
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE  
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In response Soviet note, two major newspapers have raised again issue Finnish ability inhibit or repel attack and thereby meet obligations under terms 1948 Finno-Soviet mutual assistance treaty.

Conservatively-oriented commercial KAUPPALEHTI November 3 wrote in substance:

Regardless how Soviet note interpreted, it fact that, at least formally, question concerns Finland's ability defend self. If could assure Soviets Finland able repel attack, no negotiations necessary to improve defense effectiveness. In World War II Finland demonstrated even small country can mount effective resistance. Naturally, can not talk seriously of defense if lack necessary arms and equipment. Often said position small country in nuclear war hopeless. However, as in case gas and bacteriological weapons, resort to nuclear weapons appears less and less likely due incalculable effect on users themselves. As independent nation, we commit inexcusable error if neglect defenses.

Conservative AAMULEHTI OF TEMPERE November 2 wrote in substance:

Not impossible Soviets worried over defense own borders because have no confidence Finnish forces. We know ourselves our forces poorly equipped and our armament far short of modes maximum permitted by peace treaty. Useful if in

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coming negotiations attention called to deficiencies our armed forces. In this regard encouragement and material help from abroad welcome.

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